



PRESS RELEASE

Anantara Peace Haven Tangalle Resort celebrates World Turtle Day with beach cleaning initiative

In celebration of World Turtle Day, Anantara Peace Haven Tangalle Resort marked the occasion with a beach cleaning initiative at Rekawa Beach, which is one of the most important turtle nesting grounds in Sri Lanka. The initiative aimed to support a clean environment on the beach and further strengthened the resorts passionate commitment to sustainability. Having joined forces with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for a turtle conservation project last year, which aims to implement methods to protect and conserve the globally threatened marine turtles, the beach cleaning initiative of Rekawa beach, was only a logical step towards the general projects objectives. The turtle conservation project aims to recreate a conducive healthy coastal habitat by improving the physical landscape with environmentally acceptable interventions. As well the project gives the opportunity to raise awareness and educate on the conservation efforts with the construction of a future educational visitor centre.

On 23 May around 40 resort employees, personnel from the Department of Wildlife Conservation and local community participated in the beach cleaning event before visiting the Turtle Watch Centre at Rekawa beach, to inform them self's about the five turtle species, which visit the shores of Sri Lanka for the purpose of reproducing, about the general efforts needed to protect turtles and how to help them to survive and thrive. During the beach cleaning the team collected and disposed approximately 210 kg of trash on a 3.8 km long stretch of beach, in order to create a safe nesting place for the turtles at the beach.

Anuradha Ediriweera, the resort's Nature Guru, who spearheaded the initiative commented "It was a great team effort, to recreate the natural habitat of the turtles with a trash free and unspoiled beach and with doing so, to encourage the turtles to nest at Rekawa beach. We are thrilled to have support these endangered turtles with all possible means. As a matter of fact we saw at least four fresh turtle tracks of last night nesting activities, which just showcases, how important this initiative was."

Anantara Peace Haven Tangalle Resort offers guests a unique resort experience in Sri Lanka. Located on the island's southern coastline, the resort is set on a secluded stretch of beach amidst a 21-acre coconut plantation. Each of the 120 guest rooms and 32 private pool villas exude serenity and the spacious interiors blend comfortable luxury with modern amenities.

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Editor's Notes:

About Anantara:

Anantara is a luxury hospitality brand for modern travellers, connecting them to genuine places, people and stories through personal experiences, and providing heartfelt hospitality in the world's most exciting destinations. The collection of distinct, thoughtfully designed luxury hotels and resorts provides a window through which to journey into invigorating new territory, curating personal travel experiences.

From cosmopolitan cities to desert sands to lush islands, Anantara connects travellers to the indigenous, grounds them in authentic luxury, and hosts them with passionate expertise. The portfolio currently boasts over 35 stunning hotel and properties located in Thailand, the Maldives, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Mozambique, Zambia, the UAE, Qatar, Oman and Portugal, with a pipeline of future properties across Asia, the Indian Ocean, Middle East, Africa and South America. The brand's premier vacation ownership programme, Anantara Vacation Club, extends the opportunity to own a share in the Anantara experience with a portfolio of 8 luxurious Club Resorts as well as travel privileges at partner resorts and hotels worldwide.

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Anantara is a member of Global Hotel Alliance (GHA), the world's largest alliance of independent hotel brands.

About Global Hotel Alliance:

Global Hotel Alliance (GHA) is the world's largest alliance of independent hotel brands, bringing together 35 brands with 550 hotels in 76 countries. GHA uses a shared technology platform to drive incremental revenues and create cost savings for its member brands. GHA's award-winning loyalty programme, DISCOVERY, provides nearly 10 million members exclusive opportunities to immerse themselves in local culture wherever they travel. For more information, visit gha.com

About International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Created in 1948, IUCN has evolved into the world's largest and most diverse environmental network. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its more than 1,300 Member organisations and the input of some 16,000 experts. IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. Our experts are organised into six commissions dedicated to species survival, environmental law, protected areas, social and economic policy, ecosystem management, and education and communication.

The Member organisations are represented by the IUCN Council – the governing body. Headquartered in Switzerland, IUCN Secretariat comprises around 950 staff in more than 50 countries.

IUCN has been working in Sri Lanka since 1988,

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